

Workhouses.org

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WHAT IS WORKHOUSES.ORG?

Workhouses.org is a website devoted to all things pertaining to the workhouse. It focuses on workhouses and poor laws in the British Isles, with an emphasis on England, but also has some information on workhouses in other places. This site was created by Peter Higginbotham.

General things you may find on Workhouses.org are

- Poor law history
- Individual workhouse histories
- Life inside the workhouse
- Links to record repositories

On the left you will find a menu or table of contents for the site. Here is a brief overview of what you can find under each.

Introduction

An introduction to workhouses. Includes history and overview of how the poor were taken care of over time.

Poor Laws

More information on poor law history in England, full text of poor law acts. Learn about poor law unions. Also, information on poor law in Wales, Scotland, and Ireland.

Workhouse Locations

Find detailed history on individual workhouses and records pertaining to those workhouses. Organized by country, county, then poor law union or use the poor law union/workhouse location maps. *Note:* <https://www.familysearch.org/mapp/> is a useful site if you know the parish, but not the poor law union.

Find the addresses of the workhouse under “Workhouse Locations” > “Workhouse Addresses” to see if an address listed on a birth or death certificate was a workhouse.

Workhouse Life

Details about

- Admission and discharge
- Clothing
- Daily routine
- Rules
- Food
- Medical care
- Religion
- Death

Staff and Administration

Information on how a workhouse was overseen and run.

Workhouse Rules

Actual rules from various workhouses around the British Isles.

Inspections and Visits

Workhouses were subject to yearly or twice-yearly inspections from the central Poor Law authority. Find where these reports are located and see a few unofficial reports from others who visited the workhouses.

Workhouse Memories

Recollections of some who lived in the workhouse.

Workhouse Buildings

Learn about the architecture and architects of workhouses. Take virtual tours of different workhouses.

The MAB

Information about the Metropolitan Asylums Board. Based in London; most relevant between 1867 and 1930.

Other Establishments

Details about workhouses and similar institutions run by charities, churches, etc.

Children and Education

Details various ways the children were provided for and trained.

Migration and Emigration

Many poor were encouraged to migrate to other parts of England or emigrate to British colonies. Find information about that here.

Tramps and Vagrants

Details about those who were homeless—laws, casual wards, tramp signs and slang, etc.

Arts and Literature

Samples of art and literature pertaining to workhouses.

Records and Resources

Where to find original records, online records, and other resources for researching workhouses.

Workhouse Museums

Information on workhouses-turned-museums.

Online Museum

View artifacts from workhouses.

Timeline

Timeline of poor law and workhouses.

Glossary

Explanations of workhouse and poor law terms and slang.

Workhouse in Wartime

Uses of workhouses during WWI and WWII.

Workhouse Myths

Separate fact from fiction.

Workhouse Quiz

Think you know your stuff about workhouses? Try the quiz!

Ghost-hunting

If you're into the paranormal...